

The Romulus News

DECEMBER 16, 1999 – JANUARY 12, 2000

"the little paper"

VOLUME 13 NUMBER 11

Timely Tidbits ...

See You in 2000!

The friendly staff of "the little paper" will be taking an extra two weeks off due to the holidays (and to the hopefully minute possibility that the arrival of "Y2K" could cause problems for us or our printer). Watch for our next issue on January 13, 2000.

In the meantime, we wish our readers the happiest and healthiest of holiday seasons, and look forward to seeing and serving you all next year.

Student Concerts Set a Holiday Mood

Holiday concerts at several Romulus schools have put thousands of students, parents, and staff members in a seasonal spirit. Altogether, over 900 children were involved in the programs, which were attended by large, enthusiastic crowds.

The concerts included:

- a program for first- and second-grade students which was held at Barth under the direction of Kevin Cook and Linda Maich;
- a joint Barth/Cory/Wick program, held at Wick, in which the Wick choir and all three elementary-school bands performed under the direction of Judith Barthwell and Maich, respectively;
- a joint Halecreek/Merriman program, held at Halecreek, in which bands and choirs from the two elementary schools performed under the direction of Christine Ramey;
- a Middle School concert which featured performances by the school's bands, under the direction of Mark Fernandez, as well as seasonal selections from Barthwell's performing-arts students; and
- a High School band concert, under the direction of Henry James, and a vocal/dance program that was directed by Barthwell and Debra Wilson.

For photos of some of the students involved, please see page 9. □

Stalemate Continues in Romulus School District's Teacher Contract Negotiations

By Kristi Stephens

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, says he is disappointed that his recent letter to Romulus teachers has not furthered contract negotiations between the two parties.

The letter, dated December 3, clarified the district's latest contract offer, which was made on November 12. That offer included:

- a new contract through August 15, 2002;
- a salary-schedule increase of 2.25% for each of the 1999–2000, 2000–2001, and 2001–2002 school years, plus the establishment of a new 11th step at 4.2% over the old 10th step (effective 1999–2000);
- a 2000–2001 calendar that would include 185 students days (in order to meet the State-mandated 1,098 hours of instruction for all students), three teacher workdays (one at the beginning of school, one at the end of the first semester, and one at the end of the school year), three district-inservice days, and six hours of district-approved inservice; and

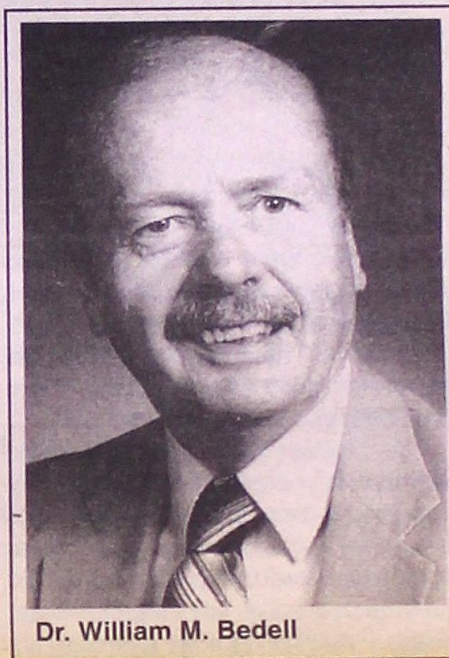
- a one-year probationary period for current teachers, and a four-year probationary period for new teachers (starting with the 2000–2001 school year).

"We believe that the district's offer is more than generous," said Bedell. "Under the current proposal, Romulus teachers would become some of the best paid in Michigan. The proposed \$70,419 MA Max [maximum pay for master's-degree holders who have worked for the district at least 11 years] for 1999–2000 would be the third highest among districts reporting a settled contract for this year.

"Compare that to the average of \$67,137 in the 18 Wayne County school districts that have a settled contract," he continued. "Not even Grosse Pointe [\$68,288] is better paid."

Bedell also compared the proposed \$70,419 MA Max to districts immediately surrounding Romulus:

- Woodhaven-Brownstown (\$67,229),
- Taylor (\$66,712),
- Wayne-Westland (\$62,533),
- Huron (\$62,238), and
- Van Buren (\$59,174).



Dr. William M. Bedell

Finally, Bedell furnished a number of other details that, in his opinion, further illustrate the generosity of the district's offer.

- By the 2001–2002 school year, salaries for MA holders would range from \$40,661 (first-year employees) to \$73,444 (MA Max).
- For the same year, salaries for holders of bachelor's degrees would range from \$36,482 (first-year employees) to \$62,534 (BA Max).
- If the district's contract proposal had been ratified by December 15, 1999, regular full-time teachers would have received an additional lump-sum signing bonus of \$500, plus a retroactive lump-sum payment of one percent for the 1995–1996 school year (for those teachers still employed in Romulus).

However, none of this impresses George Trudell—who, as Uniserv Director of the Wayne County–Michigan Education Association/National Education Association (WC-MEA/NEA), is the chief negotiator for Romulus teachers.

"The November 12 proposal is significantly different from what was negotiated last June," Trudell stated. "The former agreement was acceptable in every aspect except the resolution of grievances. The current offer is deficient in all areas, including wages and the number of years that a teacher must work in order to receive maximum pay."

continued on page 4

District Prepares for Y2K



Lorraine Wilkerson, one of the Romulus Community Schools' technology experts, has been working hard to make sure that all computers in the district's administrative office are Y2K compliant.

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Reader Supports Police

Letter to the Editor:

I was appalled by Michael Durtka's letter (December 2, 1999), which called for the firing of four Romulus police officers who were ticketed during the raid of an after-hours bar two months ago. I felt that I needed to respond to it.

Dear Sir: I have never met a perfect person in my 68 years of living. Have you never done anything wrong?

Yes, these young men made a mistake, but their suspension without pay was a more-than-fitting punishment for the minor violation they committed. Some people feel that the officers should have been named, but I support Chief Charles Kirby's right to exercise his discretion and do what he thought was best. All in all, I believe that the situation was dealt with fairly and firmly.

Our police officers – and, for that matter, our firefighters – are men and women on whom we can depend. Who would you call if you had a daughter who was raped? If you had a son who was seriously injured in an accident? Or if your house was robbed and your wife beaten by the thief? What if your house caught fire? I know that our Romulus Police Department and Fire Department personnel would give 110% to help you.

I thank our police officers and firefighters for doing a good job in this community. Over the years, I have called for their assistance several times, and they have always been helpful, kind, and very professional.

Again, many thanks to the Romulus Police Department and Fire Department. Happy Holidays to all.
Dolores Witzgall
Romulus

Football Team: Class Act

Editor's note: The following letter – regarding Romulus High School's loss to Jefferson High School in the State Championship playoffs (after finishing the regular season undefeated) – was originally addressed to Jesse Meriweather, Athletic Director for Romulus Community Schools; Mark Woodson, Romulus High School's head football coach; and Bette Lenossi, President of the Romulus Board of Education.

On behalf of the Jefferson Athletic Department, I would like to officially congratulate the Romulus football coaches and the football team. What a class act! Both teams left just about everything they had on the field on November 5. This is what makes high school athletics so great in Michigan.

Anybody could have won that contest, but I am more pleased with the way both teams handled themselves. We have a long tradition of playing Romulus in different sports through the years, and we have always maintained an attitude of sportsmanship toward each other.

Again, we congratulate the coaches and the team for a fine season and a great game.

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"Howard's Hoagies" Sub Shop Takes Pride in Fresh Food



(From left) George Parsons (co-owner), Adam Baur (manager), and Henry McFall (co-owner/marketing advisor) say that they take pride in serving fresh, quality food at Howard's Hoagies.

By Rikki Strobos

If you haven't tried the food at Howard's Hoagies, co-owner and marketing manager Henry McFall says you ought to stop in.

"We serve the highest-quality cheese-steak hoagie you can buy," he promises. "Everything we serve is made fresh each day."

Now in its second year of business, Howard's Hoagies—Romulus is the newest of a three-restaurant chain. The original, located in Ypsilanti, has been open for 27 years; the second, in Westland, for eight. All are owned by McFall, along with his partner and friend of 35 years, George Parsons, and Parsons' two sons, Wesley (who is also president) and Farley.

"The fact that both George's family and my family are heavily involved in our restaurants' day-to-day operation is one of the biggest reasons that we are able to maintain consistent quality standards," McFall explains. "My wife, Rita, is the general manager of all three locations; my son, Adam Baur, manages the Romulus store; and my daughter, Moriah Warden, fills in as a waitress wherever she's needed."

"Together," he added, "we work hard to keep our customers happy."

According to McFall, Howard's Hoagies and Romulus have a lot to offer each other.

"Romulus' current healthy spurt of growth is sure to be good for our business, too," he states. "But it's important to remember that success is a two-way street. That's why we want to give back to the town and the people who have supported us by continually promoting the community and its many positive attributes."

McFall has already begun to implement several of his promotion plans. Newspaper clippings about the best of our city's youth are prominently displayed on the restaurant's walls. Local artists are invited to display their work. There's even an area where business people can post their cards and flyers for others to pick up.

"I think they create a wonderfully comfortable atmosphere," McFall says of his walls' many adornments. "When people come in, they enjoy looking around and being reminded that Romulus has a lot to be proud of. They sit back, relax, and enjoy their food. They really feel at home here."

McFall also believes in hiring his employees from within the community whenever possible. In fact, Martez Hall, McFall's current cook, is also a Romulus resident.

McFall himself currently resides in Westland. The 47-year-old Ypsilanti native is a 1971 graduate of Willow Run High School. His other business interests include ownership of O'Henry's Tree Service in Westland.

Howard's Hoagies—located at 7099 Wayne Road, Suite 300, in Romulus—is open Monday through Saturday from 9:15 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For more information, please call 734-641-8838. □

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Teacher Contract Stalemate Continues

continued from page 1

Although Trudell admits that the June negotiations never resulted in a signed TA (tentative agreement), he maintains that an agreement was in place, nonetheless.

"That's just a technicality," he said. "Negotiators are obligated to bargain in good faith, and the district's refusal to acknowledge the June agreement is a clear violation of that good faith. For that reason, the teachers' union has filed charges of unfair labor practices against Romulus."

Trudell was also scathing in his comments regarding the district's proposed change from a 10-step salary schedule to an 11-step schedule.

"Why should we agree to a contract that would require teachers to work an additional year before receiving full pay?" he asked. "Personally, I think it's ludicrous that our teachers have to work even 10 years before reaching the maximum, let alone 11."

"Yes," he continued, "some of the other districts that I represent do have an 11-step schedule, but only in instances where that has been the schedule all along."

"That is not the case here."

Bedell expressed his viewpoint on these matters in his recent letter to Romulus teachers.

"There was no June agreement," he stated. "The negotiations in June were contingent on reviewing all of the proposed language and reaching an agreement on all outstanding issues. Neither happened. To accuse the Board of 'significant rollbacks from the June agreement' is misleading and untrue."

Concerning the proposed change in salary schedules, he wrote, "Most of the districts which make up the Wayne County MEA/NEA have an 11-step salary schedule. All of Romulus's approximately 104 teachers currently at Step 10 would automatically move to Step 11."

Bedell maintains that the district simply cannot afford to meet the union's current demands.

"In today's restructured financial environment, salaries compete with class size, support services, equipment, and programs for children. The Romulus Board of Education cannot and will not agree to a financial settlement that jeopardizes the long-term viability of Romulus schools." □

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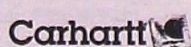
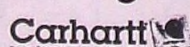
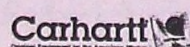


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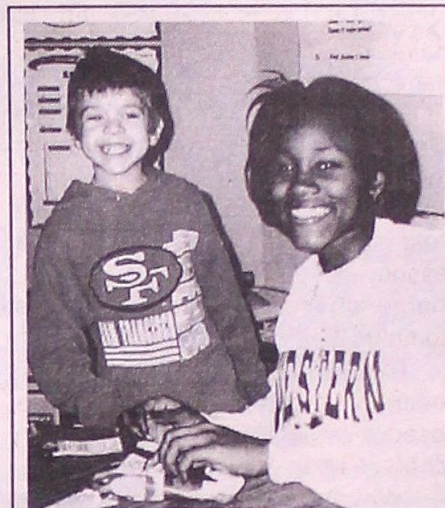
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Cory Students Select Gifts from Optimist Holiday Shop

"My parents are going to be so proud!" exclaimed one Cory kindergartner as he stood in line to get his gifts wrapped at the fourth annual Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club Holiday Gift Shop. Through the program, Cory students in grades kindergarten through three had an opportunity to choose two gifts, then have them wrapped and tagged by National Honor Society volunteers from Romulus High School. Optimist Club members were on hand to help the children make their selections. The gift items were donated by the Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club, National Honor Society students, and Reverend Virgil Humes, Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church.

The Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club is an affiliate of Optimist International, whose motto is "Friend of Youth." The local chapter sponsors various community-service activities throughout the year for young people in Wayne and Romulus, and is a special friend to Cory Elementary, with which it has formed a partnership for education.

"This year's program is centered on educational, social, and cultural programs for the betterment of all children,"



National Honor Society students from the High School were on hand to wrap presents for all the young shoppers.

explained Mae Jackson, the Club's community-service chairperson. "Projects planned for the coming year include a VIP reading activity celebrating National Reading Month in March, career speakers, and programs on drug awareness, respect for law, and bicycle safety."

In accordance with another of the Club's seasonal programs - "Warm a Child" - Optimist members recently delivered a number of hats, gloves, and scarves to Cory Principal Phyllis Adkins to distribute to children this winter.

"Optimist members are residents of surrounding communities who volunteer their time and services for a variety of worthwhile projects," said Jackson. "New members are always needed and welcome." □

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HOLIDAY GIFT SHOP



Helping Cory's young shoppers choose their gifts were Wayne-Romulus Optimist Club members (from left) Henry Nolen, Sheila Barden, Mae Jackson, Opal McClendon, Vivian Holifield, and Helen Smith.

Halecreek Teacher Provides "First Steps Program" Training



A number of Special Education and Learning Center staff members participated in the recent First Steps Program training.

Halecreek Elementary School teacher Gretchen Notaro recently trained Learning Center staff members and some Special Education teachers in the First Steps Program, which is designed to help children develop strategies that will enable them to become skilled and confident writers. The program identifies children's needs through a pretest, then provides specific lessons aimed at teaching and reinforcing

skills in the students' various areas of weakness.

"The goal of the Romulus Community Schools is to provide the best possible education for all of its children," said Notaro. "This is one of many innovative and promising programs that the district is adopting to meet this goal."

Notaro received her First Steps instruction training through the Wayne County Literacy Consortium. □

RHS English Students Are Helping the Community Anyway They Can

By Jeanne Estes, Romulus High School student

With the holidays coming up, many people are trying to help the less fortunate in our community. Because the English 10 students in Romulus High School teacher Jason Kahler's classes wanted to be a part of that effort, they invited Sergeant Cora Semrau of the Romulus Police Department to speak to them about the local Goodfellow organization and its mission.

The students then voted on how they would like to help the Goodfellows. They could choose to collect money, clothing, food, personal items, or toys, and donate them for distribution to those who are in need in Romulus. All four classes chose to contribute a little bit of everything. It wasn't long before students started coming in with box-loads of blankets, canned food, and toys. In the end, it was Mr. Kahler's third-hour class that contributed the most items.

After all the items were collected, students wrote a paper using the voice of a person who receives items from the Goodfellows. In this way, the project became part of the class curriculum as well as a community-service project.

Kendal Duncan, a student in Mr. Kahler's class, said, "I think this project was good because a lot of people are less fortunate than we are. Doing this project taught us not to take little things we have for granted."

Rodney Wesson, a senior who was also involved in the Goodfellow project, said, "I enjoyed helping out because I like giving and it makes me feel good."

The point of the project, according to Mr. Kahler, was for students to empathize with others.

"If they were able to put themselves in someone else's shoes for just a few moments, then the project was successful," he said. □

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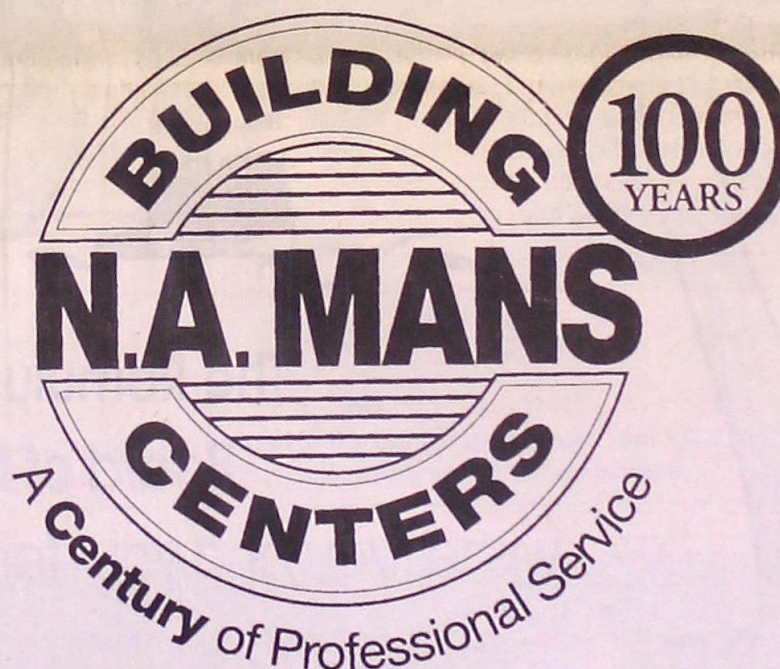
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Chrystal Case and her daughters Jennifer (left) and Jessica will be rewarded with \$100 in cash and \$100 in Pizza Barn gift certificates for recovering and returning a money bag that was lost by Pizza Barn owner Cynthia Schneider. "I just want to let them know how much I appreciate their honesty," said Schneider. "They did a very good deed."

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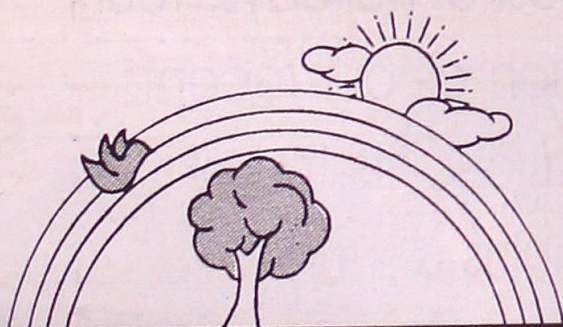
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**The Romulus Community Schools
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wishes you and your family the happiest of holidays. Your year-round support of programs such as our recent winter concerts has put us all in festive spirits. It's just one of many reasons why Romulus is such a special place in which to live, work, and go to school!

Holiday Concerts



Among those who performed at Romulus Middle School's recent holiday concert were (from left) Carla Broom (oboe) and Nicole Kizer (flute).



The Middle School band members – including (from left) Amber Netter (flute), Nerida Pena (clarinet), and Tiffany Ramsay (cornet) – performed under the direction of Mark Fernandez.



Barth band members (from left) Amanda Kreutzer, Alyssa Long, Tiffany Gray, and Alice Mattson prepared for the combined Barth/Cory/Wick concert, which was directed by Linda Maich.



Wick students who performed in the combined concert included flutists (from left) Jessica Dick, Patrice Barden, and Brittnee Shreve.



Also performing in the combined concert were Wick students (from left) Monét McCroan (saxophone), Jillian Gray (clarinet), and Lindsay Beregsasy (clarinet).



Still others who performed were Wick trombonists (from left) Jon Sandifer, Joshua Dew, and Andrew Boyd.

Unusual Characters Abound in Old-time Christmas Legends



Photo courtesy of the Winterthur Museum.

In the United States, Santa Claus visits children to reward them with Christmas gifts. After all, he knows if they have been "naughty or nice." Good children find Christmas presents under the tree and treats in their stockings. Not-so-well-behaved children wake up on Christmas morning to find a lump of coal in their stockings.

Through the years and across the globe — from the Italian Befana to the Swedish Jultomten to the Babouschka of Russia — there have been many variations and counterparts to this famous figure. A nineteenth-century Pennsylvania German tradition was that of Belsnickel (pictured at left). Dressed in a costume of furs, skins and old clothes, he wore a wig and mask, and supposedly was a sidekick of St. Nicholas. Belsnickel visited on Christmas Eve and offered cookies and fruits to good children; the whip or rod to those who had been bad. □

Homemade Lemon, Leaf Prints Add Fresh Touch to Holidays

The bright orange and yellow colors of fresh citrus fruits lend a vibrant note to all kinds of bright ideas for holiday decorations and gifts. They can be used to make pomander balls, candied peels, and dried fruit slices to be used as ornaments or on wreaths, or simply include them in a basket of fruit for a friend.

You can make your own citrus wrapping paper and card designs. To help you create unusual yet beautiful citrus projects, try the following craft ideas, courtesy of Sunkist.

Lemon and Leaf Prints

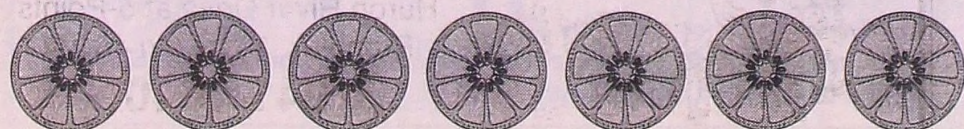
(for holiday wrapping paper, note cards, and gift tags)

- Sunkist lemons
- stamp pads (ink, pigment, or children's washable ink) in assorted colors (red, green, yellow, orange, gold, etc.)
- brown wrapping paper, brown paper grocery bags, or gift bags
- white banner or craft paper and/or gift-wrapping tissue
- blank cards and envelopes
- blank gift tags (or make your own from heavy card stock)
- raffia or ribbon
- fresh leaves (fern, ivy, etc.), about 2 to 2½ inches long
- Parchment or tracing paper, cut into 3-inch squares

Cut lemons in half crosswise. Pat lemon halves on paper toweling to blot juice from surface and to dry lemon slightly. Protect work area from ink by covering with paper. Press cut lemon half onto stamp pad, then press onto selected paper, card or tag. Repeat with the same or a different ink color in patterned or overlapping designs. (Use one lemon half for each color used.)

Use the lemon-stamped papers to wrap gift boxes, and tie with coordinating raffia or ribbon, adding a bit of holiday greenery and small pine cones, if desired. Use the lemon-stamped tissue paper as a colorful filler in handled gift bags or boxes (like Chinese food take-home boxes). Adding a coordinating gift tag completes the presentation. Tie a set of lemon-stamped cards and envelopes with raffia or ribbon to give as "homemade" gifts.

To make leaf designs, place leaf (use somewhat flat leaves, like ferns) on stamp pad. Place piece of parchment on top of leaf and rub finger over parchment and leaf to "ink" the leaf. Remove parchment and carefully place leaf, inked-side down, on paper or card to be decorated. Cover leaf with a clean piece of parchment and gently rub finger over parchment and leaf to transfer the leaf design. Repeat the design or use a different leaf shape or ink color. □



Spread Holiday Cheer: Shower Loved Ones with Encouraging Words and Gifts

The holidays are here again. It's a time of happiness and cheer — but not for everyone. For some people, the holidays bring on a major case of the blues. Whether it's from the stress of the season (not enough money for gifts, for example, or feeling pressed for time), or from feeling lonely and missing faraway family and friends, not everyone gets swept up in the holiday spirit.

Do you have a friend or family member who is a little down in the dumps this season? It's time to cheer him or her up with some thoughtful and unique holiday gifts, accompanied by clever cards filled with a play on words. The following ideas, courtesy of Robyn Freedman Spizman, author of *When Words Matter Most* (Crown), will bring a smile to his or her face.

As Spizman says, "Encouragement comes in many forms. Whether someone is feeling blue or just needs a pat on the back, encouraging words will uplift."

Smart Cookies

Send someone a box or arrangement of cookies with a note that says, "You're the smartest cookie I know."

Tea's the Season To Be Jolly

Put together a basket of gourmet flavored teas. This gift is certain to warm up that special person on your gift list.

Think the World of Someone

Give someone a map of the world tied up in a ribbon with a note that says, "I think the world of you." □

Sealed with a Kiss

Send someone a box filled with Hershey's Kisses, along with a card that reads, "All the kisses in the world aren't enough for you!"

All Wound Up?

Send a windup toy to someone who is stressed out. Add a note that says, "In case you get too wound up, wind this up instead."

Send a Flashlight or Candles

Tell someone that the world's a brighter place because he or she is in it.

Penny for Your Thoughts

Go to the bank and get a bunch of shiny new pennies. Give them out to "shining examples" of people you appreciate. Tell them that they shine in your book.

Warm Wishes

Send your warmest wishes with a basket filled with your favorite soup, gourmet coffee, or anything that will warm someone up.

Bean a Great Year?

Put a bag or box of jelly beans in your favorite friends' mailboxes with a note that says, "Happy New Year! It's 'bean' a great year, thanks to you."

Deliver a Dictionary

Give someone who is extraordinary a dictionary and underline with a highlighter all the words in it that describe that individual. From "astounding" to "fabulous" to "marvelous," don't miss a word. Add a note that says, "I've underlined words from A to Z / to show how much you mean to me." □

Classic Holiday Films

It's Christmas Day. The gifts have been opened, the food has been eaten, and you're so tired you can't move a muscle — yet it's only 3 p.m. What are you going to do for the rest of the day?

It's time for some extra family bonding — in front of the television set. Pop some popcorn, toss another log in the fireplace, snuggle up on the couch, and throw a tape into the VCR.

What will you watch? The following are some of the most popular holiday movies — both classic and modern: *It's a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Nutcracker*, *Scrooged*, *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, *The Bishop's Wife*, *White Christmas*, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, *Babes in Toyland*, *Home Alone*, and *The Santa Clause*. □

Multilingual Message

English-speaking people say "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" to friends and family to wish them good cheer. Why not bring a smile to someone's face by giving your holiday greetings in a foreign language (information courtesy of www.peders.com) such as: Arabic (I'd Miilad Said ous Sana Saida), Cantonese (Seng Dan Fai Lok, Sang Nian Fai Lok), French (Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!), Hawaiian (Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou), Hebrew (Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shana Tova), Italian (Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo), Japanese (Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto), Navajo (Merry Keshmish), Polish (Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia), Spanish (Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo), and Swedish (God Jul och Gott Nytt År). □



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**Smile!
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Fill up on
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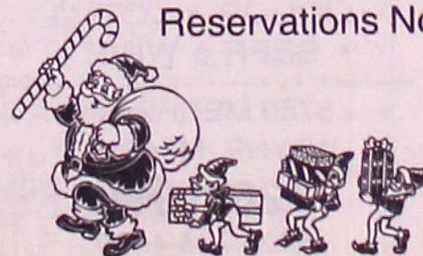
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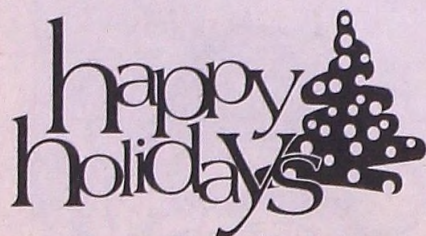
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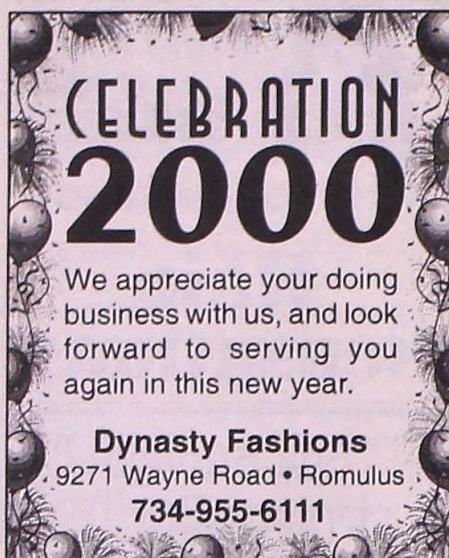
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Best wishes for a happy new year!

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New Year's Greetings To All

May your fondest hopes and dreams be realized in 2000. Thank you so much for letting us serve you.


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Enjoy the New Year!

Hope you have a real blast on new year's, and that the good times continue into the days to come. We are most grateful for your support and friendship.


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HOORAY For The New Year!

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Before New Year's Winds Down . . .

We'd like to wish everyone a fine celebration, and health and happiness in the coming year. Thanks for stopping by!

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Happy New Year to You...
Happy New Year Everybody...
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New Year's Greetings

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Best wishes in 2000!

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Have A Gala New Year!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for taking time out to visit us this past year. We wish you all the best to come.

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Food-and-toy Drive Benefits Needy



Derrick Thomas is seeking donations of food and toys.

"It's that time of year again – the season that allows us an opportunity to express our love and appreciation toward one another," said Derrick Thomas, owner of Derrick's Hair Designs of Belleville.

One way that Thomas and his staff are doing their part this year is by conducting their annual food-and-toy drive for the less fortunate. Dona-

tions of canned and other nonperishable food, as well as small, unwrapped toys, may be dropped off at the salon (located at 11792 Belleville Road in the Van Buren Plaza, just south of I-94) through December 21. Thomas says that the items will be given to Adopt-a-Child, a nonprofit charitable foundation that benefits families from our community. □

The Police Report

Tips for a Safe, Happy Holiday Season

By Joe Richardson, Crime Prevention Officer, Romulus Police Department

On behalf of the Romulus Police Department, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Here are a few suggestions for making those wishes come true.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even if it's only for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a doorway or a window.
- If you take a holiday trip away from home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, shovel new snow, pick up your mail and newspaper, and park his/her motor vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Mark your valuables with your driver's license number.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire-resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure that electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- Avoid leaving discarded boxes from holiday purchases (especially TVs, VCRs, computers, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

While Shopping

- Shop before dark if possible. If not, never park in an unlit lot or other area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Whenever possible, coordinate shopping trips with a friend or family member.

- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle's doors locked and windows closed. If you place packages in your car and return to the store for additional shopping, move the vehicle in case someone is staking out the parking lot.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- To discourage purse-snatchers, don't overburden yourself with packages.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry your purse under your arm. Keep your wallet in an inside jacket pocket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.

When Hosting Holiday Parties

- Have nonalcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Serve something to eat before serving alcoholic beverages.
- Have alternative transportation for intoxicated persons. Don't let guests drink and drive. Appointing a "designated driver" or calling a cab could save your life.
- On New Year's Eve, the Romulus Police Department will provide rides within the City of Romulus. Please call the Department's non-emergency number: 734-941-8400.

Editor's note: Officer Richardson welcomes your questions and/or ideas for future installments of "The Police Report," which will be a regular feature in "the little paper." Please feel free to contact Officer Richardson at his non-emergency number (734-942-6871) or to write to him in care of "The Romulus News at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038. □

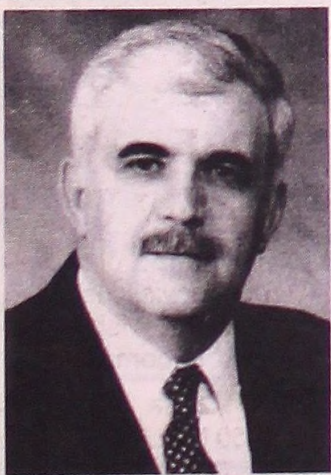
GREETINGS OF THE Season

Mayor William M. Oakley
and Staff

Season's Greetings

From our family to yours:
Have a safe, healthy, and
happy holiday season.

Councilman Bill Wadsworth,
Jean Wadsworth, grandchildren
Sarah and Andrew, and the rest
of the Wadsworth Clan



Paid for by the Committee to Elect William Wadsworth

HELPING HAND THRIFT SHOP

(located on Huron River Drive, west of Five Points • 734-941-5323)

is seeking contributions of:

- small and family-size hams, turkeys, & roasts •
- one-pound packages of ground beef • bacon • sausage •

as well as nonperishable food items such as:

- macaroni and cheese • boxed potatoes, pasta, and rice •
- peanut butter and jelly • canned goods of all kinds •

CASH DONATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!

Contributions may be dropped off on:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday • 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cash donations may also be mailed to:

The Helping Hand • P.O. Box 74375 • Romulus, MI 48174

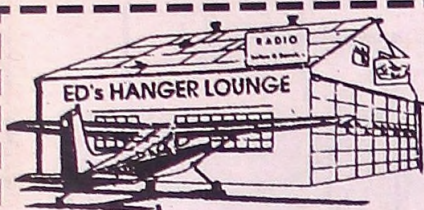
GOODWILL TO ALL



With sincere hope for the peace and well-being
of all who share our planet.

We wish you a joyful holiday.

Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc.



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(734) 941-1633

KARAOKE

Every Friday starting at 9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY FISH FRY

11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

1/3 lb. Ground Round - \$1.50

Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No Carry-Outs

- VISA & MASTERCARD ACCEPTED -

Granny's Cafe

Home Cooking Daily Specials

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE

Location: Madco Truck Plaza
27416 Ecorse Rd. • Romulus

313-292-0604

Fax 313-292-0742

Humane Society Adopted



Ron Blauet, Education Director of the Michigan Humane Society, talks to Halecreek's kindergarten students about the needs and care of animals.

The kindergarten classes at Halecreek Elementary School have adopted the Westland branch of the Michigan Humane Society as their community service project for the 1999-2000 school year. The children collect and donate pet foods and products that the Humane Society needs to care for the animals at the shelter. They also have a "doggie bank" in their classroom for monetary donations.

In October, Ron Blauet, the Education Director for the Michigan Humane Society, visited the kindergarten classes to discuss the care and needs of animals, as well as the responsibility of pet owners. He told the children about the Michigan Humane Society and the work that it does to help take care of, and find homes for, its animals.

In November, the kindergartners took a field trip to the Westland branch of the Michigan Humane Society and delivered their first installment of the items that they had been collecting for the animals at the shelter. Blauet reviewed with them the needs and care of animals, and introduced them to the many animals available for adoption. The children also visited the veterinary clinic, where they saw sick animals being prepared for surgery. The jobs of veterinarians and related staff, as well as animal health-care, were discussed.

"This service-learning project has helped the children learn and understand their responsibilities to their pets," said teacher Cathy Kudra. "They are also learning that they can contribute to making their community a better place."

The Miracle of Christmas



Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

— Isaiah 7:14

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

— Luke 1:30



And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.

— Luke 2:4

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

— Matthew 2:1-2



And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

— Luke 2:16

May the beauty of the Christmas season give you love and renewed hope for the future.

The Staff of The Romulus News
Evelyn, Kristi, Ann, Joyce, & Mary

Science Night at Halecreek

Students from Halecreek Elementary recently enjoyed a "science night" at Hands-on Museum. The Ann Arbor-based group provided a wide variety of fun and educational activities for children from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

In one demonstration, children put an egg in a glass of water and observed the egg sinking to the bottom, then took the egg out and added some salt. When they returned the egg to the water, it floated!

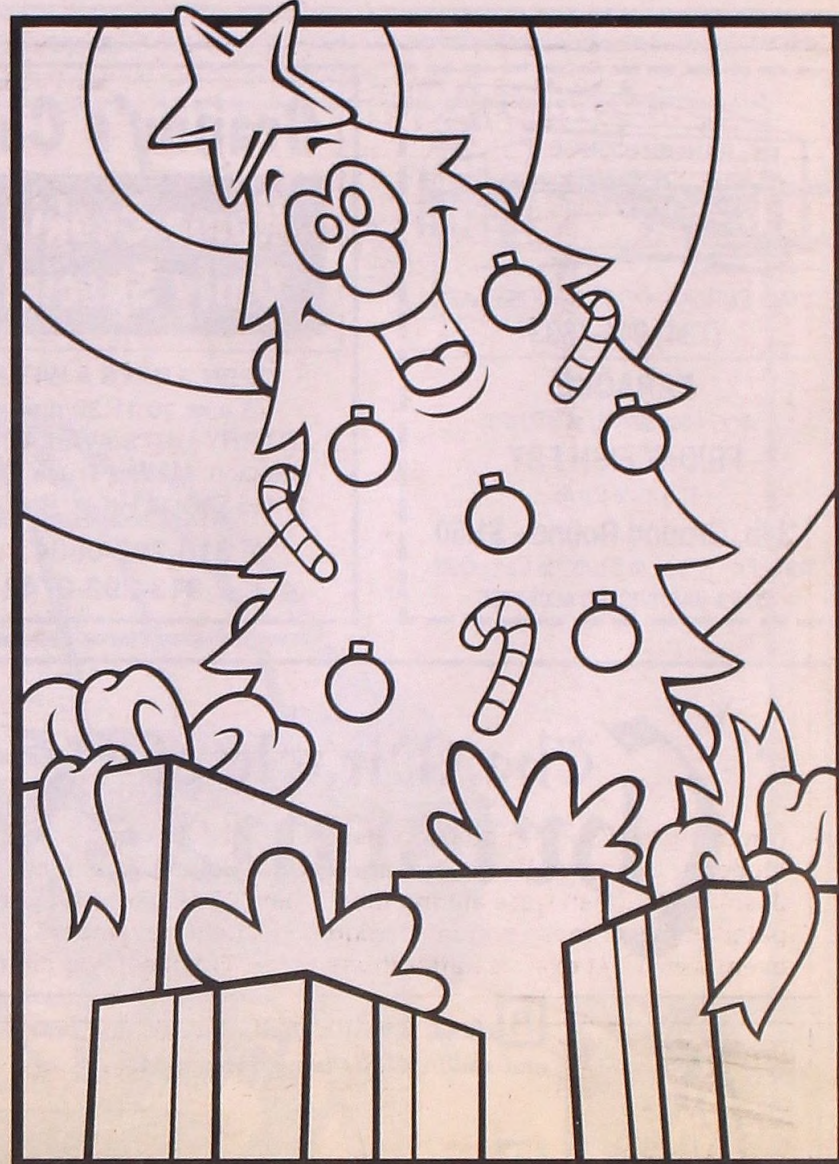
Students also observed what happens to a can of Diet Coke (it floats) versus a can of regular Coke (it sinks) when both are placed in a pail of water.

Usually, the demonstrations included an explanation of the scientific principal behind the observed behaviors.

For instance, Bernoulli's princi-

ple, which states that pressure is lowest when the velocity of flow is greatest, was demonstrated by placing two pop cans about one inch apart and then blowing hard between them. The faster-moving air caused the pop cans to move together. Students were then told how this same principle applies to flight. (Air moving across the top of a wing has farther to go, and therefore travels faster and exerts less pressure than the air moving across the bottom of the wing. The additional pressure below is the source of "lift.")

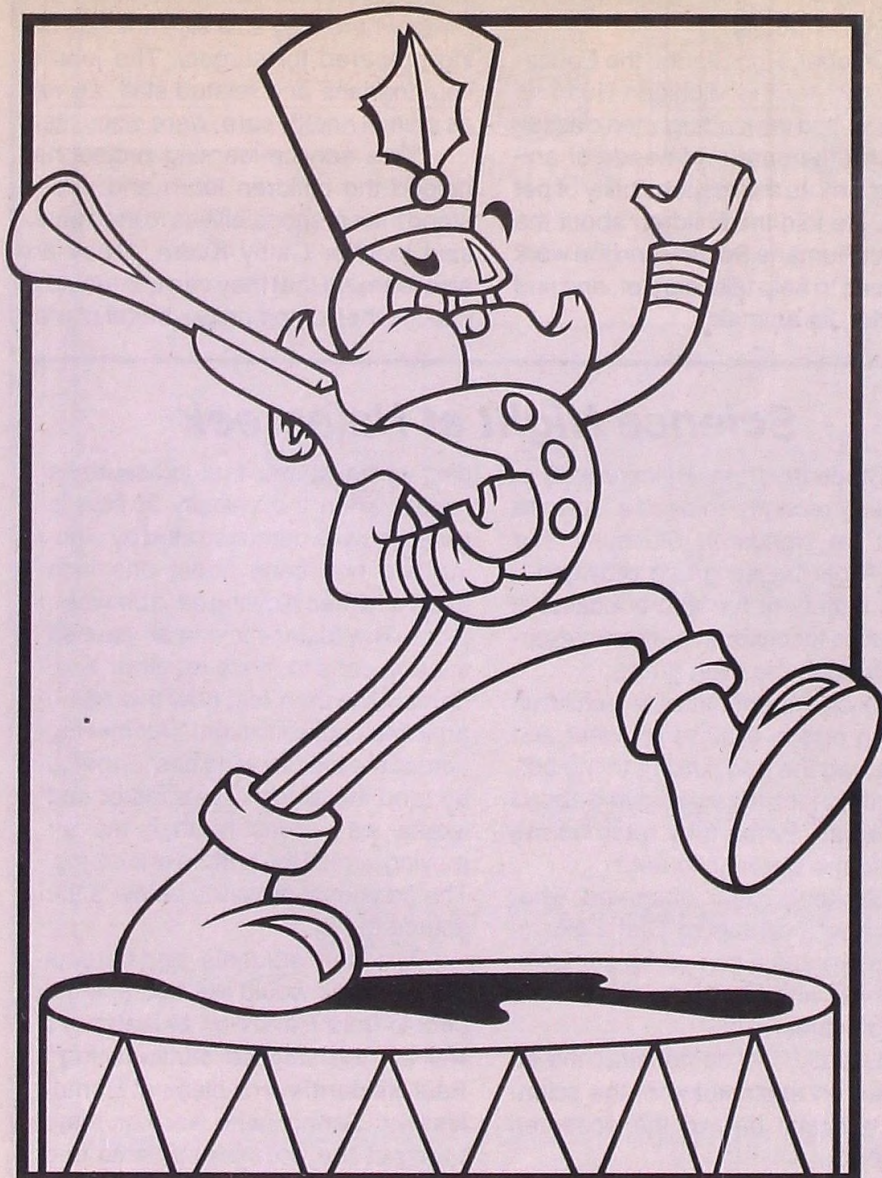
The staff, students, and parents of Halecreek would like to thank the people from Hands-on Museum, as well as the science students from Paul Neidermeyer's class at Romulus High School, who were on hand to assist the younger students and their parents. □



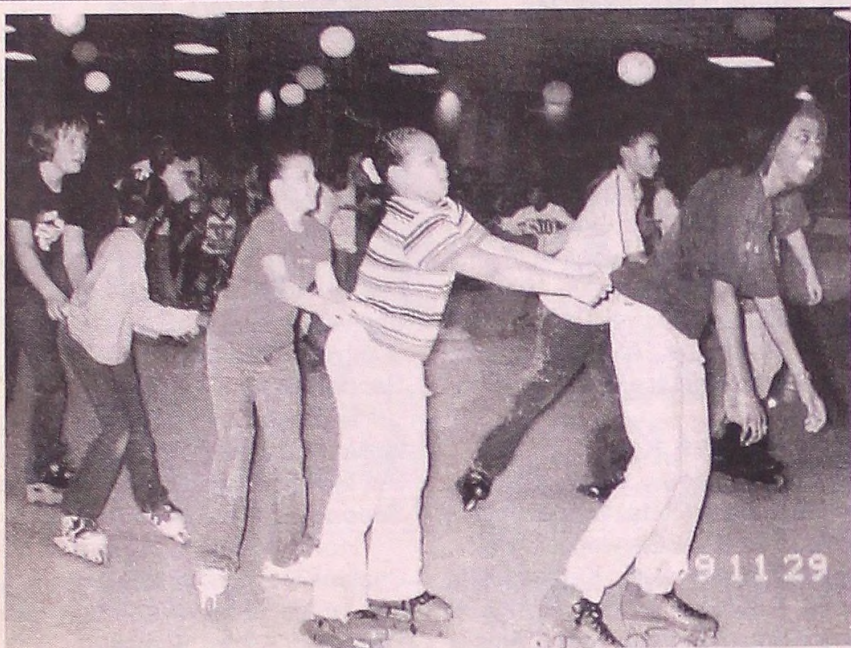
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IT

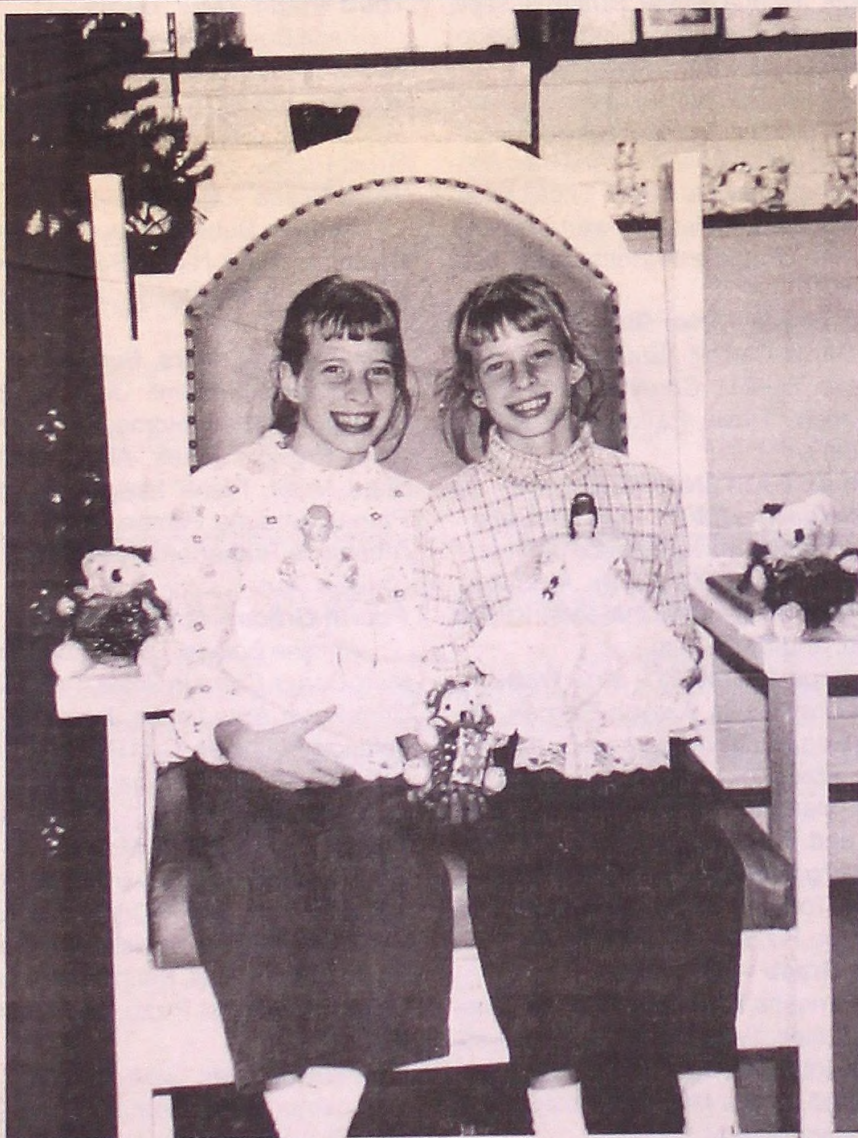
CHRISTMAS



Holiday Happenings



(From right) Fourth-grade teacher Karensa Fitch and Merriman students Chentelle Wyatt, Kasara Vinson, Jetuan Robinson, and Jessica Workman were among more than 300 skaters who participated in the school's annual skating party, held November 29. The event was great exercise after those heavy Thanksgiving dinners.



Linda Norman, Program Coordinator at the Romulus Senior Center, would like to thank Jessica (left) and Jennifer Dick for their help with her annual holiday craft project. "This is the second year that they have worked with our Christmas craft program," said Norman. "They are eager assistants who help me shop, decide on craft projects, and clean up after the classes."

Boys & Girls Club Activities



Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Michigan-Romulus Club and Holden Club recently met General Colin L. Powell at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit (sponsored by the Detroit Office of Marsh). Pictured here are (front row, from left) Brittany Phillips, Alicia Gibson, Jennifer Hollingsworth, and Courtney Hollingsworth; (second row, from left) Clever Loudd, Jaren White, Justin Kuderik, and Thomas Kuderik; and (back row, from left) General Colin L. Powell, Sean McCallep, and Catherine O'Malley.



(From left) Costume Contest winners Alexandra Winters, Brittany Glenn, Jennifer Hollingsworth, and Curt Washington were among 80 members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan-Romulus Club who enjoyed their first Halloween party. Costumes, games, treats, and lots of member energy equaled fun for everyone.

Wick Elementary Students Honored for Academics, Attendance

Congratulations to the following Wick Elementary students whose dedication and hard work earned them a spot on their school's honor-roll and/or perfect-attendance list during the first marking period of the 1999-2000 school year.

HONOR ROLL

Note: An asterisk denotes those students who received all "A" grades.

Third Grade – Mrs. Albus

*Levi Adams, Romel Arrington, Jessica Barber, Raheem Brown, Brad Burcroff, Joshua Horne, *Lauren Jones, Raymond Kraft, Sean Matatall, Alisha Moon, Quinn Nash, Latrice Parnell, Antoine Patterson, Chantal Payne, Alton Peterson, *Ricky Rutherford, and Asia Shareef.

Third Grade – Mrs. Gable

Joseph Dent, Christopher Fultz, Troy Gray, Jamie Griffin, Kyara Lee, *Stephanie Monroe, Felicia Olson, *Grant Pizzo, and *Kiarra Sandefur.

HONOR ROLL (continued)

Third Grade – Mrs. Zeleji

Jasmine Abney, DeAndre Brewer, *Krystal Burrell, Jonathon Corder, Amber Eldred, Carlie Frye, Kiarrah Jackson, Edwin Lewis, *Tamica Mosley, Demetrius Price, Nicole Sattler, Kory Smith, *Jon Swaggerty, and September Waites.

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Barnes

*Dean Burcroff, *Shaniya Dye, *Alicia Matatall, *Shauna Pitman, Kenneth Hall, Stefinie Holbrook, Larry Horne, Tanisha Hubbard, Dominique Irving, Lawrence Jones, Jacob Krell, Kiara Miller, Jasmine Parnell, Justin Price, and Stephanie Rutherford.

Fourth Grade – Mr. Bingaman

Antoine Baines, Ashley Chandler, *Carmen Collie, Jonathon Denys, Christopher Floyd, Alisa James, *Valencia Mathews, *Celeste Moody, Gabrielle Rivers, Ashley Simmons, Jessica Wallace, and Brandon Williams.

HONOR ROLL (continued)

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Motyka

Heather Baval, Tiffani Cannon, Kristen Dubisky, *Steven Hawes, Nicole Love, Krystal Nault, Darius Osborne, *Samuel Pizzo, and Matthew Wagle.

Fifth Grade – Mr. Gibb-Randall

Brianna Ashby, *Andrew Boyd, Joshua Dew, *Jennifer Dick, *Jessica Dick, Georgea Frye, Bonita Fultz, Tatiana Gray, Carrie Hampton, *Antoine James, Kathleen Marcum, Darius Price, Richard Remelius, Alex Sampson, *Monay Smith, Kandice Wells, and Shakita Wilson.

Fifth Grade – Mrs. Kyte

Shon Aggison, Jason Britton, Taniesha Burkes, Cortez Dyess, Jaclyn Evanski, Demaryst Garwood, Quinton Gregory, Daniel Hoskins, Katrina Little, Cherica Peoples, Ashley Rodgers, Kevanna Smith, Bethany Strain, Amber White, Vaneshia Williams, and Brittany Wright.

Fifth/Sixth Grade – Mrs. Meredith

Aleisha Curry, Shamika Eldridge, Michael Hudson, Alicia Jackson, Jacob Kettlewell, Marco Little, Chrishawna Meeks, Joshua Rivera, Bobby Russell, Shantrice Tatum, and Lorenzo Wilson.

Sixth Grade – Mrs. Redmond

James Bell, Richard Bennett, *Lindsay Beregsasy, James Blanton, *Megan Crozier, Jason Elwell, Jillian Gray, Ashley Horyn, Danielle Keller, Erica Linton, John Sandefur, Siera Stewart, Michelle Thomas, Patricia Williams, and Lola Wynn.

Sixth Grade – Miss Richard

Darryl Carroll, *Brittany Hampton, Octavia Hester, Corey Koch, *Monét McCroan, Travis Parker, and Robert Staffieri.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Kindergarten (M/W) – Ms. McCabe

James Newbill and Aveon Simmons.

Kindergarten (T/Th) – Ms. McCabe

Najai Beck, Brandon Mahon, Kaylan Robb, and Earl Smith.

Kindergarten (M/W) – Mrs. Wood

Corey Davis, Aaliyah Eatman, Edmon Hogan, Dawan James, Dylan Martinez, Frederick McAnally, Joshua Shellman, Marquis Thomason, Janée Warren, and Tyler Winborn.

Kindergarten (T/Th) – Mrs. Wood

LaTonya Bailey, Cierra Gasser, Jackson Pizzo, and Chloé White.

First Grade – Miss Gaglio

Renesha Chandler, Taekola Coleman-Gates, Tyrell Fields, Kiana Hayes, Willie Johnican, Malcolm Jones, Justin Marshall, Onika Miller, Nicholas Tripp, and Tiara Woody.

First Grade – Mrs. Panek

Jamie Davis, Ricky Evanski, Angelle French, Junaé Harville, Devon Jacquay, Malik Jones, Raven Parnell, Jenese Wallace, Onja'leese Warren, and Bréana West.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE (continued)

First Grade – Mrs. West

Loren Adams, Robert Ames, Robert Blanton, Brianna Boyd, Dennis Dixon, Bryan Moore, Adrienne Parnell, Amanda Richards, Erica Ross, Alexander Short, and Amanda Wagle.

Second Grade – Miss Kerner

Deonte Carter, Demond Davis, LeAnne Dawson, Derek Forbes, Kyana Lee, Brandon Love, Samantha Marcum, Savannah Moody, Paige Pizzo, Niko Scott, and Alec Staten.

Second Grade – Mrs. Otis

Beatrice Boyd, Dominique Carroll, William Chacon, Joshua Krell, Christina McTigue, and Stuart Nairemore.

Second Grade – Mrs. Talento

Holly Atchley, Sheldon Gage, Chelden Gober, Danielle Graves, Antonio James, Vincent Lambert, Marcus Trent, and Ashley Wagle.

Third Grade – Mrs. Albus

Romel Arrington, Raheem Brown, Brad Burcroff, Anisha Eldridge, Merissa Gordon, Joshua Horne, Vincent Hoskins, Lauren Jones, Latrice Parnell, Chantal Payne, and Asia Shareef.

Third Grade – Mrs. Gable

Keith Burrell, Daniel Davis, Skyluar Flores, Jamie Griffen, Keyera Horne, Brandon Lacey, Kyara Lee, Brandon McCraight, Stephanie Monroe, and Grant Pizzo.

Third Grade – Mrs. Zeleji

Rodney Dubisky, Deondre Fields, Demetrius Price, Nicole Sattler, Rachel Shores, Jon Swaggerty, and September Waites.

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Barnes

Nicholas Bennett, Dean Burcroff, Kenneth Hall, Larry Horne, Tanisha Hubbard, Preston Jones, Alicia Matatall, Kiara Miller, Diana Milligan, Jasmine Parnell, Shauna Pitman, Justin Price, Stephanie Rutherford, Karl Smith, and Christin Tyus.

Fourth Grade – Mr. Bingaman

Antoine Baines, D'Anthony Carroll, Marc Carter, Carmen Collie, Tye Crump, Chris Floyd, Alisa James, Jasmine Long, Valencia Mathews, Carl Roscoe, Elizabeth Spearman, Jessica Wallace, and Brandon Williams.

Fourth Grade – Mrs. Motyka

James Blake, Marwin Boyd, Dominique Buckley, Tiffani Cannon, Vincent Cheatham, Kristen Dubisky, Tiara Grandison, Kristina Hall, Keith Miller, Darius Osborne, Samuel Pizzo, and Matthew Wagle.

Fifth Grade – Mr. Gibb-Randall

Joshua Dew, Jennifer Dick, Jessica Dick, DeAndre Horne, Antoine James, Jesse Lambert, Blake Perkins, Darius Price, Alex Sampson, Monay Smith, Kandice Wells, and Shakita Wilson.

continued on page 23

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 22, 1999

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held at Romulus High School on Monday, November 22, 1999, was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by President Bette M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

11/99/14 Moved by Woods supported by Webb that the Board approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

11/99/15 Moved by Woods supported by Webb to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, and the Study Session of November 9, 1999, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

None.

Bills for Payment

11/99/16 Moved by Lambert supported by Berlinn to approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Electricity Purchase

11/99/17 Moved by Lambert supported by Webb to remove the Electricity Purchase tabled at the November 8, 1999 meeting. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

11/99/18 Moved by Lambert supported by Woods that the Board accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve the two-year contract attached for the purchase of electricity from the EMC Illinova Energy Partners and Nordic Electric, contingent upon Nordic Electric obtaining the required franchise from the City of Romulus. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Recognition of Employees

11/99/19 Moved by Lambert supported by Woods that the Board of Education recognize several employees of the District for their outstanding service to the children of Romulus, and present them with items of appreciation for their efforts. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Executive Session – Negotiations

11/99/20 Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:32 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:31 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

11/99/20 Moved by Lambert supported by Berlinn that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth E. Berlinn, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education



CAN YOU GUESS WHO?

You might not have known our "mystery woman" when this picture was taken, but her adult face is familiar to many people in the City of Romulus.

To learn her identity, anagram (rearrange) each "key word" below – WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE LETTER – to answer the corresponding clue, and fill in the blanks accordingly.

If the puzzle is done correctly, the added letters, read from top to bottom, will spell out the name of this prominent local citizen.

ADD THE LETTER ... TO THE LETTERS IN ... TO GET

- ... ARGYLE ... *Night* _____ (Rod Serling TV series) _____
- ... SOLVENT ... John Irving or Anne Tyler, for example _____
- ... GABLES ... they sang "Walk Like an Egyptian" _____
- ... RIFLED ... _____ *on the Roof* (Broadway musical) _____
- ... OBTUSER ... 1942 Hitchcock film _____
- ... CAUSED ... Foster/McGillis film (with "The") _____
- ... SENE ... Martin or Charlie of movies _____
- ... PIONS ... "____ Ivy" (1959 Coasters hit) _____
- ... IMPLORE ... Rangers' Gold Glove-winning DH _____
- ... WHITE ... star of *Can't Hardly Wait* _____
- ... FLOW ... *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test* author _____

For solution, see page 23

YOU'LL FIND IT IN "RECORDS"

How many words of four or more letters can you form using only the letters found in RECORDS? A letter can be used more than once only if it appears more than once. Proper nouns, plurals and present-tense verbs formed by the addition of the letter "s" at the end, obsolete and archaic words, slang and informal words, poetic words, hyphenated words, contractions, alternate spellings, and foreign words are not permitted.

Our list of 23 words can be found on page 23

Community Calendar

- **Youtheatre Offers *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*** – Youtheatre's Movin' Up Club (children ages seven and up; no one under five will be admitted to the theater) presentation of *Alexander* has been set for Saturday, December 18 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, December 19 (2 p.m.), at Music Hall (located at 350 Madison Avenue in Detroit). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$9 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. For more information, call 313-963-2366.
- **Christmas Services** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located on the corner of Ellis and Craig streets in New Boston) invites the public to attend its Christmas Eve (Friday, December 24, at 11 p.m.) and Christmas Day (Saturday, December 25, at 10 a.m.) services. For more information, contact the Church (734-753-9048).
- **Recreation Department Offers Youth Dance Classes** – The Romulus Recreation Department (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) will offer youth classes in ballet, tap, and jazz beginning Wednesday, January 12. The eight-week classes will be held according to the following schedule: Ballet for ages three to five – 5 to 5:30 p.m.; Ballet for ages six and up – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Tap for ages six and up – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; and Jazz for ages six and up – 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 for the three-to-five class; \$30 for all others. Deadline for registration is Tuesday, January 11. For more information, call the Recreation Center: 734-942-6852.
- **"African American Experience" Book Discussion Group** – The newly formed African American Experience Book Discussion Group will meet from 7 to 8 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month (next meeting on January 19) at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road, next to City Hall). New members are welcome. For more information, call Alfaye Woods or Diane Hazen at the Library (734-942-7589) during its regular hours (Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.).
- **Youtheatre Offers *Ishangi's Africa*** – Youtheatre's Movin' Up Club (children ages seven and up; no one under five will be admitted to the theater) presentation of *Ishangi's Africa* has been set for Saturday, February 26 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, February 27 (2 p.m.), at Music Hall (located at 350 Madison Avenue in Detroit). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$9 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. Call 313-963-2366.
- **Youtheatre Offers *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping*** – Youtheatre's Wiggle Club (children ages three to six; no one under three will be admitted to the theater) presentation of *Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping* has been set for Saturday, March 4 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.), and Sunday, March 5 (2 p.m.), at Music Hall (located at 350 Madison Avenue in Detroit). Individual tickets are \$8 when purchased in advance; \$9 at the door. Group rates, birthday parties, season tickets, and drama workshops are available. For more information, call 313-963-2366.
- **Attention, Class of 1950!** – Plans are in the works for the 50-year reunion of Romulus High School's Class of 1950. To find out more about how you can help plan this event, or to make suggestions about how it can be made the best reunion ever, call Donna (Rehkop) Genovese (734-941-0293) or Ruth (Stevenson) Meyers (734-941-0254), or contact Don Koza on line (www.bilygoat.id.com).
- **Big, Beautiful People Welcome!** – The "More to Love" Social Club for Big, Beautiful People and their admirers welcomes you. Call 313-438-2720.
- **TOPS Meetings** – TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter #M11690, Taylor – a nonprofit weight-loss support group – invites you to attend its weekly meetings, which are held at 7:05 p.m. each Thursday at Taylor Church of Nazarene, Eureka Road just west of Telegraph. Dues are \$20/year + \$1/week (first visit free).
- **Head Start Seeks Applicants** – Romulus Head Start is recruiting eligible three- and four-year-old children for its free preschool program, which is held at Beverly School. Head Start serves children from low-income families, foster children, and children with disabilities. For more information, or to apply, call 734-334-1812.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113

Sponsored by Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc.
"committed to protecting Michigan's environment"

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

Happy Holidays!

A heartfelt thanks for the many beautiful cards and holiday greetings that I have received from everyone kind enough to keep me in their thoughts.

To all my friends throughout the community, I would like to send my best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy new year.

Holiday Gala

The Center's annual Holiday Gala will be held at DoubleTree Hotel on Monday, December 27, beginning at noon; dinner will follow at 12:30 p.m. The afternoon of fabulous food, great entertainment, prizes, and fun is an affordable \$7 per person, thanks to the generous sponsorship of DoubleTree and U.S. Park.

Registration will close soon, so sign up at the Center as soon as possible.

Motor City Casino

If you've been itching to try out the new Motor City Casino, be sure to sign up for the Romulus Senior Center's upcoming trip, set for Wednesday, January 19. Transportation cost is \$5.

Lunch Out . . .

A luncheon trip to the Detroit (famous for its delicious, all-you-can-eat fish) is planned for Friday, January 14. Sign up at the Center.

. . . and Lunch In

The Romulus Senior Center will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and kick off Black History Month (February) at its next luncheon, set for 1 p.m. on Friday, January 21. The menu for the event will include fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, greens, dessert, and a beverage. For cost or other information, or to register, please contact the Center.

Shopping

For a transportation fee of just \$1.50, Romulus senior citizens can ride the Center's van for shopping at Taylor's Southland Mall on Friday, January 7. Since space is limited, seats will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment of the transportation fee reserves your seat. No refunds will be made unless there is a waiting list. Sign up at the Center.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 12. As always, both walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) are welcome.

Preventing Elder Abuse

"Citizens for Better Care" will be at Romulus Senior Center from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, to offer helpful information on preventing abuse of the elderly.

"Abuse comes in many forms, and some types, such as neglect, aren't as easily detected as the type that leaves its victims with bruises or broken bones," said the Center's Linda Norman. "This program will teach people how to detect abuse and neglect, and what they can do about it when it occurs."

Norman urges everyone to attend the program, even if they are not currently acquainted with someone who could be a victim.

"At some point in our lives, many of us will have contact with an abused or neglected senior citizen," she explained. "Becoming better informed today will prepare us to prevent the troubles of tomorrow."

Sign Up To Receive Free Newsletter

The Romulus Senior Center is building an entirely new mailing list for its free newsletter. Anyone who would like to receive the monthly bulletin beginning in January of 2000 *must* contact the Center and ask to be put on the new list.

Center Closings

A friendly reminder: The Romulus Senior Center will be closed on December 23, 24, 30, and 31 due to the holiday season.

Programs Canceled for Holidays

During the holidays, a number of the Senior Center's regularly scheduled programs will not meet. These include Bingo (usually held each Wednesday at 1 p.m.; canceled for December 22 and December 29), Bunko (usually held Tuesdays at 1 p.m.; canceled for December 21 and December 28), and Ceramics (usually held each Monday at 1 and 6 p.m.; canceled for December 20 and December 27).

All programs will resume the first week in January.

Haircuts Canceled for January

The Romulus Senior Center would like to remind everyone that the monthly haircut service has been canceled for the month of January. □

Holiday Craft Class: Fun for All Ages



Edna Sandy Bell (left) and Marissa Pate enjoyed a "Christmas Bears" craft class offered at the Recreation/Senior Center on December 4.

Turn of the Century

by David Svacha (in memory of Don Ellinghausen)

It was the turn of the century; there were no cars or wheels.
It was the horse and carriage in which love you tried to steal.
Friends were really friends. Your word was a sacred band.
Honesty was a virtue in the shake of someone's hand.
There was no computer or TV; radio had just been born
with cowboy songs and love stories; the Lone Ranger was the storm.

The Depression hit us really hard – no food could we find;
and on the cold, deserted street, you heard, "Brother, could you spare a dime?"
Families had togetherness, each and every one,
and every day, before we broke our bread, we'd thank God's Holy Son.

There were no shootings at the schools or drugs to wreck our lives,
and spreading bread and jelly was the peaceful task of knives.
Roller skates and barn dances were the order of the day,
and as a young man's fancy turned to love, Jesus led the way.
They were united in his presence with a love so bright and true,
it was like the evening starlight and the early morning dew.
The "war to end all wars" had come; World War II was its name.
The battle was for freedom with Jesus at its reign.
And when the dust had settled and victory at last had come,
we gave praises to our Father and His Holy Son.

Oh, what happened to those days and the pitter-patter of His reign?
You could almost see speed coming, and progress was its name.
Rockets took man into space in the twinkle of an eye,
and landing on the moon was made in just one single try.
There were beepers, bloopers, and cell phones as voices filled the air.
Video games were on TV; the little ones would stare.
Computers had taken off; TV was in every home.
There was little time for family, and the couples they would roam.
Oh, so sad, the little children; no honor would they show,
and further away from Jesus each day they would grow.

Now, as the century ends, I think God will take command.
A religious revolution will be spread throughout our land.
And as I come to Jesus' door, you say, "Was it all worth while?"
and then I take my Savior's hand and give you a great big smile.

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ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
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Romulus, Michigan 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____

Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions): _____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

Obituaries

Margaret W. (Clark) Felenchak

Margaret W. (Clark) Felenchak of Romulus, Michigan, died on Tuesday, November 30, 1999. The 74-year-old native of Detroit, Michigan, was born February 24, 1925.

Margaret is survived by her son, David G. (Leona) Krause (Romulus, MI); her grandson, Sean Krause (Romulus, MI); and her fiancé, Hal Riederman (Romulus, MI).

Two husbands (Joseph Krause and George Felenchak), four brothers, and one sister predeceased her.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, December 4, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker (Calvary Baptist Church, Romulus, MI) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock, MI).

Henry A. Rakoczy

Henry A. Rakoczy of Clinton, Michigan, died on Thursday, December 2, 1999. The 81-year-old was born April 12, 1918.

Among those surviving Henry are his two sons, Paul M. and Gerald L. Rakoczy; three daughters, Mrs. Judith A. (Phillip) Letellier, Mrs. Kathleen R. (John) Larder, and Ms. Mary M. Lang; one sister, Mrs. Helen Charkiewicz; 21 grandchildren; and four great-grand-

children.

His daughter, Diane Rakoczy, predeceased him.

A funeral service was held on Monday, December 6, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus, MI), with Father Richard Thomson officiating. Interment was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery (Brownstown Twp., MI). Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI). □

Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance

continued from page 20

Fifth Grade - Mrs. Kyte

Billy Aemisegger, Ebony Armstrong, Jason Britton, Nova Connolly, Bianca Cooper, Cortez Dyess, Jaclyn Evanski, Antonio Fultz, Demaryst Garwood, Quintin Gee, Aaron Matatall, Bethany Strain, Vaneshia Williams, and Brittany Wright.

Fifth/Sixth Grade - Mrs. Meredith

Shamika Eldridge, Michael Hudson, Marco Little, Joshua Rivera, Bobby Russell, and Lorenzo Wilson.

Sixth Grade - Mrs. Redmond

James Bell, Richard Bennett, James Blanton, Triniece Courtney, Jason Elwell, Jillian Gray, Erica Linton, Ralonda Peammon, John Sandefur, D'Jhon Scott, Jalisa Simpson, Brian Thiede, Chastity Weston, Michael White, and Patricia Williams.

Sixth Grade - Miss Richard

Tondra Bland, Brittani Brown, Merrika Brown, Brandon Burkett, Darryl Carroll, Kenny Charles, Brittany Hampton, Octavia Hester, Daawan Jackson, Louise Jones, Adrienne Mayes, Monét McCroan, Jessica Schaf, Kevin Smith, Erin Strain, and Dennis Suiter.

Editor's note: To submit your school honor-roll and/or perfect-attendance lists, fax them to 734-941-4874. □

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answers to puzzles from page 21
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Wolfe

*"(Romulus City Clerk)
Linda Choate"*

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